

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 11, to read:

For example, where in Figure 3(A), the ~~length~~ width D_w of each beam emitting part 12 in the slow axis direction is $200\ \mu\text{m}$ (micrometer) and the distance D_p between each beam emitting part 12 and the next thereto is $200\ \mu\text{m}$, the depth of the optical waveguide 20(s, t) in the slow axis direction is set to $200\ \mu\text{m}$ and the diameter “Ra” of the sphere spacer members 25b is set to $200\ \mu\text{m}$, whereby there can be constituted a laminated optical waveguide array 200 capable of efficiently collecting the laser beams to a finer optical fiber 30(s, t).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 5, to read:

As shown in Figures 9A) and 9B), the third embodiment utilizes a plate-like spacer members 25c interposed between the adjoining optical waveguides 20(s, 5). Although the example shown in Figure 9(A) shows one piece of the plate-like spacer member ~~[[25]]~~ 25c for each space between the waveguides 20, modifications may be provided. In one modified form, plural thinner plate-like spacer members are laminated in the Y-axis direction to have a required depth R_c . In another modified form, plural pieces of the plate-like spacer members 25c each of which has the required depth R_c and a smaller divided area may be arranged within the X-Y plane thereby to constitute one space layer. Also, like the first embodiment of the spacer means, where the optical waveguides 20 are made of quartz glass having the refractive index of about 1.45, the boundary part between each optical waveguide 20 and the spacer member which part is formed with the piece plate-like spacer members 25c being arranged within the X-Z plane can be the air (refractive index: about 1.00). In other words, the layer for the spacer member is not required to be occupied fully with the plate-like spacer member 25c and can have the parts vacant.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 27, line 22, to read:

Figure 9(A) is an explanatory view showing the state that the plate-like spacer members 25c is interposed between two adjoining optical waveguides (the optical waveguides 20(1, 1) and 20(1, 2) in this example). Figure 9(B) shows an example of a perspective view of a laminated optical waveguide array 200 in which the optical waveguide 20(s, t) and the plate-like spacer members 25c are interposed in alternate fashion. For the purpose of explaining the state of lamination, Figures 9(A) and 9(B) do not show the shape of the optical waveguide 20 as Figure 2 does, but show it as a square for brevity.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 4, to read:

Required to the plate-like spacer members 25c are that the refractive index thereof be lower than that of the optical waveguides 20(s, t), that the error thereof in diameter, namely "Rc" shown in Figure 9(A) be small and therefore, that the spacer members 25c be highly precise.